

Shelton State Courier

Issue 95

New Series Vol. 7, Number 3 Shelton State Community College Feb. 20, 2003—March 5, 2003

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Future Issues

This is the third Courier of the year. We will publish 15 more issues this year. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the Courier editorial office at 391-2406.

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Placement is where it's happening...

Part III of a multi-part series on technical educational opportunities at Shelton

By Amy P. Oswalt

At the age of 20, Chris Simpson had become desperate. With only a high school diploma, his job opportunities barely existed. The bills were stacking up and his current employer, who paid little and offered no benefits, was cutting back on his work week.

Simpson searched for a different job for over nine months. With little chance in finding employment with benefits, he eventually got on with a temporary job agency in hopes of a company hiring him full-time. Simpson, a fake name but a real person, has not found a permanent position yet.

At around the same time, James "Bo" White, a student at Shelton State was getting recommendations from teachers and a job offer to work in his chosen field, information technology. What made him different? The answer lies in the fact that White had chosen a different route than Simpson. White had almost finished a technical degree and was backed by the Job Placement

Center at Shelton.

The staff of the Job Placement Center helped White to get a job working with the computer systems at R.L. Zeigler Packing Company. The center made White's job hunt much easier. "I wouldn't have known about the job if it hadn't have been for them," White said.

White explained how much the center helped him. "I appreciate what they've done for me. Actually, they sent me to two different interviews and I wound up with a job. I'm battling 500 in my case," said White.

Through the Job Placement Center, which opened in October 2002, many technical students at Shelton are battling .500. Whether students are getting degrees in cosmetology or welding, the center is prepared to hook them up with the latest news on job openings and an easier way to get those jobs.

Nothing could be easier than the companies actually coming to Shelton and recruiting prospective employees. The most recent company to do that was Recticel North America, an



Shelton State student James "Bo" White sits in his office at R.L. Zeigler Packing Company. White was led to Zeigler by Shelton's Job Placement Center.
Photo by Sparrow Estes

automotive supplier for Mercedes.

Jan Brazeal, human resources administrator for Recticel, explained that her company chose to recruit at Shelton because of the technical programs. When she visited the college, she spoke to students about what Recticel offered. Those who were interested in being employed by Recticel were able to fill out

applications on the spot.

"We're going through those applications right now and hope to start the interview process for maintenance technicians within the next two to three weeks," said Brazeal.

Recticel is not the only company interested in the technical students at Shelton. Businesses

Placement cont'd on pg. 3

Now let's review: In '99 the first great gala was held

By Jonathan King

It's Gala time again here at Shelton, and that means that two new names will receive a place among the select few talented enough to be named to the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame. This year's gala will be held Saturday, March 15.

This year's inductees include none other than Nat King Cole, a breakthrough performer who took landmark steps in creating equality in the entertainment business, and Tom

Cherones, the director and executive producer of the hit series *Seinfeld*.

Though you've heard the names of these two men, the part that may not have been familiar to you in the previous paragraph was that about the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame, or perhaps the Gala which it puts on every year, right here at Shelton State. It is spoken of each spring, and even covered by the paper, but do you really know what it is about?

The Courier took time to

sit down with one of the directors of the Gala, Doug Perry, and find out more.

"We founded it in 1999," Perry said of the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame, "after we realized that there was not a hall of fame in Alabama to honor performers. There were halls of fame for musicians, and nurses, and stock car drivers, but not one for those individuals talented in the acting arenas."

"This is the fifth year it has been established," added

Perry, noting that in those five years of existence, 13 people and one movie have been inducted as members.

When asked about the selection process for the hall of fame, Perry said, "There is a committee from around the state who once a year decides on the nominees. While we accept nominations from anyone, we have a running list of people who live or have roots in Alabama. This list is what we mainly look at, and try

Gala cont'd on pg. 3

Tuscaloosa offers a great outdoors list

By Marc Holingsworth

The college years are supposed to be the most memorable of one's life. And spring is the time of year to get outside and after it while you're still young.

After a long week of classes and studying, students want to enjoy the great outdoors on the weekend. Since activities aren't apparent enough for some students, here are some suggestions.

Outdoor recreation can be broken down into three parts: organized sports, water sports and camping. These activities can be fulfilled in Tuscaloosa and are affordable on a student's budget.

The organized sports include basketball, tennis, soccer, football, softball, baseball, golf, running and walking. The Tuscaloosa County Park And Recreation, PARA, offers gyms, fields and tracks for each of these activities.

PARA has four major activity centers that offer gyms and walking tracks. Sixteen tennis courts, 20 baseball and softball fields and two soccer

and football fields are available in different locations.

Bowers and Sokol Parks offer the majority of baseball and softball fields. Tennis courts are available at Bowers and Kentuck Parks. Sokol Park also offers two football and soccer fields.

If you're looking for a place to run, jog, or walk, Snow Hinton, Bowers and Sokol Parks offer sidewalks for walking and jogging. These activities can really be fulfilled about anywhere, but PARA's activity centers offer indoor tracks for a safer atmosphere (and one has a swimming pool). Yearly membership at the PARA activities goes for just \$55 per year.

If water is better for you then your really in luck. Lake Tuscaloosa is a hot spot for fishing, boating, skiing and swimming on the weekends.

Another place for these activities is the Black Warrior River. It also offers a few sandbars to relax on. Thanks to Mother Nature, the sandbars are free of charge.

Now for camping, Deerlick Creek Campgrounds has everything offered by campgrounds.

The park is managed by the U.S. Corp of Engineers and overlooks the Black Warrior River. Deerlick offers sites for tents and/or RV's, picnic areas, playgrounds, hiking trails, fishing piers, showers and bathrooms.

The park also has a boat launch and each site includes electricity and water. Prices are seasonal, but with a tent, one night in the campground is under \$25.

Lake Lurleen is another U.S. Corps of Engineers park and campground.

This small campground is nestled in the peace and quiet of nature. The camp sites are identical to Deerlick's.

The park offers boat rentals, fishing, hiking trails, canoe rentals and a small beach for swimming.

The prices are very comparable to Deerlick Campgrounds.

If you've been looking for some weekend fun, but just never knew what to do or where to go, then maybe these suggestions will help you.

In Celebration of Black History Month, We request the honor of your presence at *A Musical Journey Through the Life of Zelpha Wells*

Friday, February 28

6:30 p.m.

C.A. Fredd Cafetorium
'reception to follow



Scholarship available

The Shelton State Alumni Association is offering its annual Louise Pruett Memorial Scholarship to one deserving student.

The scholarship is available to students age 25 or older with a GPA of 3.0 and 12 semester hours at Shelton.

Active alumni member or immediate family of an active alumni member will receive preference.

For more regulations about the scholarship or for an application, contact Ronda Shirley at 391-2310.

"Keep Looking Up!"

By Dr. Lee Albritton



Famous Twins

The late winter and early spring night sky is ideal for observing the best known twins through all the ages—Castor and Pollux—that make the familiar constellation: Gemini.

To locate them simply look straight overhead about an hour after sunset for two very bright stars fairly close together.

These stars are the heads of the twins, with Pollux being more toward the east and Castor the west.

Their bodies are made up

of two lines of much fainter stars and run in a southwesternly direction from each of their heads.

If one were to connect the stars, sure enough, you can make out their stick figure bodies.

Gemini is one of the twelve constellations on the ecliptic, the plane that all planets are located in as they go around the Sun.

Therefore, at different times planets will be located in the twins and each month it

is fun to watch the moon move through Gemini.

As Earth orbits the Sun, it will make the Sun always be in one of the twelve constellations on the ecliptic from Earth's view.

These twelve constellations where the other planets, the moon, and the sun will always be located is referred to as the Zodiac.

Keep looking up, enjoy our clear winter skies, and find the night skies' very famous twins — Castor and Pollux.

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Shelton State Courier

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The Shelton State Courier is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submis-

sions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The Courier is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

Awards for Shelton students

Applications for these college-wide awards are now available at the Counseling Center on the Martin Campus or in the Main Office on the Fredd Campus.

Completed applications are due by noon on March 5 to Pam Davis, room 2630 on the Martin Campus, or to Katherine Williams, in the Main Office on the Fredd Campus.

I.W. Mitchell Outstanding Technical Student Award

Selection is based on academic achievement, involvement in campus and community activities, technical recognition and job-related activities.

Norman C. Cephus Special Achievement Award

Selection is based on academic achievement, involvement in campus and community activities, technical recognition and job-related activities.

Thomas E. Umphrey Outstanding Freshman Award

Selection is based on outstanding academic achievement and involvement in campus activities.

Harold I. James Outstanding Technical Student Award

Selection is based on accomplishments in the classroom and workplace.

James B. Allen Award

Selection is based on academic achievement and service to the college and community.

Leo Sumner Outstanding Sophomore Award

Selection is based on outstanding academic performance, school involvement and community service. It is the highest honor that a student can earn at Shelton State.

Gala cont'd from pg. 1

to select the most deserving candidates each year."

There is a bit of a requirement (other than masterful skill involving some aspect of movies, theatre or television) that most every inductee must meet. Perry explained, "[The selection process] is complicated a bit by the fact that in order to be inducted you must attend the event."

Sometimes the committee may pick five or six people, rather than three, but only three of the six picked are available to attend. "There was one inductee, however, who received an exemption from this rule."

"Last year's case, Hugh Martin, was different. Because he was 87 and due to health problems, couldn't travel. He, instead, did a video acceptance speech."

If you take the time to read the plaques in their honor in front of the Bean-Brown Theatre, it is not hard to realize what each of the last 14 inductees contributed to their particular genres. It is also not hard for Perry to detail what is special about this year's pair of inductees.

"Nat King Cole's induction is important because it shows there are no boundaries for whom can be inducted into the Stage and Screen Hall of Fame. Even though he was most well known as a singer, he is being

inducted for work on stage and screen because of his landmark television show, which was the first ever with an African-American host. That, in and of itself, is the primary reason he is being inducted.

"He has been recognized by the Jazz Hall of Fame, and Music Halls of Fame for his contribution in those areas, and this induction recognizes his talents on the screen. It rounds out all the aspects of what made him so talented."

Perry goes on to tout the accomplishments of Tom Cheronos, who "was the director and executive producer of *Seinfeld*, and is only the second behind-the-scenes person we've inducted, so that is a special distinction by itself."

When asked who is eligible for induction in the future Perry said, "There are many people from Alabama who could be considered."

"Johnny Mack Brown, who was in countless western movies, could be inducted. Pat Butram, who was best known as Mr. Haney on *Green Acres*, is also a future prospect for induction."

"There are also names like Courtney Cox, Kate Jackson, and many others from Alabama who have been mentioned as possibilities," Perry added, "There is a fairly long list of those who are eligible, and every day new names emerge."

Placement cont'd from pg. 1

such as Alabama Power, Phifer Wire and Genius Rollerscreen Systems have all hired students through the Job Placement Center.

Genius Rollerscreen Systems chose Shelton's technical students as prospective employees because of their specific skills. "The students have had some training in different manufacturing areas such as welding that really is a help to us," said Doug Gaines, the production/quality manager at Genius Rollerscreen Systems.

The companies set dates to recruit at Shelton through the Job Placement Center. Getting students jobs with these companies is the main service of the center, but they also offer other assistance.

The center provides services including critiquing one of the most important steps to getting that deserved job—the resume. "If the students want to bring their resume by, we will look at it and go over it with them to make sure that the resume says what it needs to say," said Mike Fields, director for the Job Placement Center.

The center has access to all types of information about careers, from how much a certain job pays to how much that field will grow within the next ten years. "We get a lot of information from industrial relations in Montgomery. They show the forecast of what jobs will be out there and what industries are growing and the ones that aren't growing," said Fields.

The center also posts job openings, but has had a problem with the postings being removed from bulletin boards as soon as they are put up. Consequently, the center is now working on getting an enclosed bulletin board to make sure students are informed about job availability.

With the Job Placement Center working to make sure that students are prepared to find a career and also helping them directly by working with the industries in the hiring process, no technical student at Shelton should ever have Simpson's problem. The Job Placement Center certainly assures a brighter and easier job hunt.



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Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—



Lady Buc sophomore guard Marquitta Hillman travels around a defender during a recent Buccaneer game. Photo by Sparrow Estes

Buccaneers reach 23-3, point toward playoffs

By Robert Milz

The Bucs are now 23-3 with four games left in the regular season. With the tournament right around the corner, March 5-8, the Bucs are highly confident for the end of the season.

On Feb. 15, the Bucs dominated Gadsden State, winning 88-61. Jeremy Law, Kareem Ward and Patrick Culver seemed to stay in the air for most of the game with dunks and alley-oops. Shelton has proven themselves to be a worthy adversary for this year's tournament.

The Bucs' rival, Faulkner State, will be hosting this year's tournament. Shelton lost to Faulkner at home already this season.

Shelton guard Jeremy Law said the team is ready to exact a measure of revenge on its rival. Law said, "We should have beat them last game. Now we are focused, and nobody can stop our intensity!"

Asst. Coach Tim Law predicts the Bucs will be in the top five for the tournament. The top five get a bye, exempting them from the elimination games. Coach Law said, "The tournament will be tough, but we have a good chance."

Coach Mohun seems to be ready for anything.

The team has it together so much, Coach Mohun can play every player on the team and does so.



Buc freshman center Marcus Cooks of Tuscaloosa shoots for two.

Photo by Sparrow Estes

Lady Bucs streak to 21-6

By Kim West

With several recruits in the stands, the Shelton State women's basketball team held off conference power Gadsden State 76-55 on Feb. 15 to gain sole possession of first place in the AJCCC standings with just two weeks left until the state tournament.

The Lady Bucs improved to 13-0 at the Umphrey Center this season. They will finish undefeated at home for the second straight season if they beat Beville-Fayette on Feb. 22.

Shelton State (21-6, 8-2) held Gadsden State, a team that averages 73.4 points per game, to its second-lowest point total this season and forced the conference's best three-point shooting attack to hit only 9-of-27 from behind the arc.

After a seesaw battle throughout most of the first half, the Lady Bucs built a 39-27 halftime lead, thanks to a 16-6 run.

In the second half, Gadsden State surprised Shelton State with a full-court press and drew within nine points with less than seven minutes remaining. But the Lady Bucs clamped down on defense and allowed the Lady Cardinals to score only six more points the

rest of the game.

Marquitta Hillman led Shelton State with a game-high 19 points, while Laura Rombokas added 12. Nica Westbrooks, Jennifer West and Leanne Williams all scored eight points. Westbrooks also pulled down a team-leading 12 rebounds.

Meredith Toney paced Gadsden State with 11 points.

Despite an almost-certain No. 1 seed in the state tournament that includes a first-round bye, the Lady Bucs know they still have work to do.

"We need to stay focused and keep our heads on the ground," point guard Leanne Williams said.

On Feb. 13, fifth-year coach Madonna Thompson and her team each reached milestones. Thompson won her 100th game at Shelton State with a 74-62 victory over Wallace State-Hanceville, and the Lady Bucs reached the 20-win mark. They also played four other games in the past two weeks, downing Wallace State-Selma (97-47), Meridian (102-94) and Southern Union (53-49).

Shelton State hosts Beville-Fayette in its home finale on Feb. 22. Tip-off is at 5:30 p.m. and admission is free. The Lady Bucs wrap up their regular season at Lawson State on Feb. 24. The state tournament is at Faulkner State, on Feb. 28-March 2.

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Shelton State Community College
Fast-Pitch Softball Schedule

Spring 2003

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Time</u>
Saturday	Feb. 15	Central Alabama	Away	1:00
Tuesday	Feb. 18	Southern Union	Away	1:00
Thursday	Feb. 20	Central Alabama	Home	1:00
Friday	Feb. 21	Alabama Southern	Away	1:00
Tuesday	Feb. 25	Wallace-Hanceville	Away	1:00
Thursday	Feb. 27	Snead State	Away	4:00
Thursday	March 6	Meridian	Away	1:00
Friday	March 7	Alabama Southern	Home	1:00
Sunday	March 9	Wallace-Dothan	Away	1:00
Tuesday	March 11	Wallace-Hanceville	Home	1:00
Friday	March 14	Gadsden State	Away	1:00
Sunday	March 16	Jefferson State	Away	1:00
Thursday-Friday	March 20-21	Wallace-Hanceville Tourney	Away	TBA
Wednesday	March 26	Northwest-Shoals	Home	1:00
Thursday	March 27	Snead State	Home	1:00
Sunday	March 30	Jefferson State	Home	1:00
Tuesday	April 1	Bevill State	Home	1:00
Thursday	April 3	Northwest-Shoals	Away	4:00
Friday	April 4	Faulkner State	Home	1:00
Wednesday	April 16	Bevill State	Away	1:00
Friday	April 18	Meridian	Home	1:00
Monday	April 21	University of Mobile	Away	4:00
Thursday	April 24	Southern Union	Home	1:00
Friday	April 25	Gadsden State	Home	1:00
Thursday-Saturday	May 1-3	State Tournament	Alexander City	TBA

Head Coach: Melissa Bautista: 391-2299

Shelton State Community College
Baseball Schedule

Spring 2003

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday	Feb. 18	Okaloosa-Walton	Niceville, Fla	3:00
Wednesday	Feb. 19	Okaloosa-Walton	Niceville, Fla	3:00
Thursday	Feb. 20	Gulf Coast CC	Panama City	5:00
Friday	Feb. 21	Truett-McConnel	Panama City	2:00
Saturday	Feb. 22	Truett-McConnel	Panama City	1:00
Sunday	Feb. 23	Gulf Coast CC	Panama City	1:00
Tuesday	Feb. 25	Jefferson State	Birmingham	1:00
Friday	Feb. 28	Pearl River CC (MS)(2)	Shelton	1:00
Monday	March 3	Bevill-Fayette	Fayette	1:00
Tuesday	March 4	Bishop State	Mobile	TBA
Wednesday	March 5	Bishop State	Mobile	TBA
Sunday	March 9	Jefferson State	Shelton	2:00
Thursday	March 13	Triton (2)	Shelton	2:00
Saturday	March 15	Forest Park (Mo)	Shelton	12:00
Sunday	March 16	Wallace-Hanceville (2)	Hanceville	1:00
Tuesday	March 18	Bevill-Sumiton (2)	Sumiton	1:00
Wednesday	March 19	Central Alabama	Alex City	1:00
Friday	March 21	Meridian	Meridian, Miss	3:00
Saturday	March 22	*Jeff State (2)	Shelton	1:00
Tuesday	March 25	*Bevill-Fayette (2)	Shelton	1:00
Saturday	March 29	*Snead State (2)	Boaz	1:00
Monday	March 31	Meridian	West Alabama	4:00
Tuesday	April 1	*NW Shoals (2)	Shelton	1:00
Friday	April 4	Middle Georgia	Cochran, Ga	7:00
Saturday	April 5	Middle Georgia	Cochran, Ga	1:00
Tuesday	April 8	*Gadsden State (2)	Shelton	1:00
Wednesday	April 9	Central Alabama	Shelton	2:00
Saturday	April 12	*Bevill-Sumiton (2)	Shelton	1:00
Tuesday	April 15	*Jefferson State (2)	Birmingham	1:00
Wednesday	April 16	East Mississippi	Shelton	2:00
Friday	April 18	Wallace-Hanceville (2)	Shelton	1:00
Saturday	April 19	*Bevill-Fayette (2)	Fayette	1:00
Monday	April 21	Wallace-Hanceville	Hanceville	4:00
Tuesday	April 22	*Snead State (2)	Shelton	1:00
Wednesday	April 23	Meridian (2)	Shelton	1:00
Saturday	April 26	*NW Shoals (2)	Muscle Shoals	1:00
Monday	April 28	Central Alabama	Birmingham So.	4:00
Tuesday	April 29	Faulkner State	AUM	1:00
Saturday	May 3	*Gadsden State (2)	Gadsden	1:00

Head Coach: Bobby Sprowl: 391-2206



Shelton Singer Rachel Jones traveled to New York City last week to sing in the Women's Honor Choir.

Photo by Sparrow Estes

Shelton Singer participates in national honor choir

By Sparrow Estes

Rachel Jones, a music minor and member of the Shelton Singers, recently sang in a national women's honor choir in New York City.

The American Choral Directors Association held its 2003 national convention in New York on Feb. 12-15.

Over 1,200 women auditioned for the Women's Honor Choir, and Jones was one of only 300 who were selected. Jones was also one of five black women who were chosen to participate in the event.

"It was really a great honor to make it in," Jones said. "It was really intense."

We practiced for nine hours a day, four days straight."

The choir performed two concerts in the prestigious Riverside Church in New York City under the direction of Dr. Judith Willoughby.

"She is a very well traveled conductor," Jones said. "Willoughby was really inspiring to me, as one of five of the black ones there to look up and see that my conductor was a black woman, too."

In addition to Jones, 15 other Shelton Singers made the trip to the convention along with Shelton Singers director Glinda Blackshear, who is the president-elect for the Alabama chapter of ACDA.

Nurses plan blood drive

By Kim West

If you've ever wanted to save another person's life, here's your chance.

The Shelton State nurses are holding its annual spring blood drive on March 10-11 in conjunction with United Blood Services, which supplies DCH Hospital.

According to the UBS web site, there is a severe shortage of blood nationwide.

"Right now, our blood levels across the country are very low and we need more donors to come in regularly, since we do not know when the military call may come," said Jeanne Dariotis, president of America's Blood Centers.

"Blood is needed every day — not

just in times of disaster or military action — it is the blood on the shelf that saves lives."

The drive is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in rooms D1-D3, near the Campus Grill.

All donors must be 17-years-old and weigh 110 lbs., according to the UBS web site. A person can give blood every 56 days.

The donation goal for the drive is 100 units of blood. Walk-ins will be accepted, but pledges are preferred.

If you are interested in donating or volunteering, please see nursing instructor Jackie Williams or drive coordinator Cindy Patenaude.

You can also contact the blood drive committee at pokey5782@aol.com or jwilliam@sheltonstate.edu.



Dianzy Rodriguez explains "relationships" to Charles Prosser in Theatre Tuscaloosa's production of the musical review *Closer Than Ever*. Photo courtesy of Theatre Tuscaloosa

Closer Than Ever examines life and love through song

Theatre Tuscaloosa presents *Closer Than Ever*, one of the most acclaimed musical reviews to ever open in New York, Feb. 20 through March 2. Stitching together a tapestry of relationships into 23 numbers, the musical has a hip, contemporary feel, while addressing many universals.

Written by Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire, *Closer Than Ever* is musically varied and emotionally strong. Touching and harmonically beautiful, the songs shift seamlessly from poignantly watching one's children become parents to becoming a father to your own aging parents. Other songs delve into working mothers, unrequited love and the personal fitness craze.

Theatre Tuscaloosa's production of *Closer Than Ever* features a cast of eight: Jillian Bell, Lisa Cahill-West, Daniel Meredith, Anthony Noland, Charles A. Prosser, Dianzy Rodriguez, Sonya Danzy Thomas and Willie E. Williams Jr.

The show is being directed and choreographed by Barry Austin with musical direction by Leslie Poss. Scenic design is by Ben Boyer, lighting design by Charlie Dennis and costume design by Jeanette Robertson. Karen Konzen is serving as stage manager.

In a collaboration that has thrived for over thirty years, Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire have established themselves as one of the theatre's leading songwriting teams. Their first review, *Starting Here, Starting Now*, was about youth, first love and the promise that life holds for everyone. With *Closer Than*

Ever their view of the world is older and wiser.

Choices aren't so simple. Emotions are full of ambiguities and contradictions. People who have experienced a bit of life find themselves thinking and feeling things they never could have predicted. In these songs, Maltby and Shire take us on an emotional journey through the anguish, amazement and human comedy of contemporary living.

Performances of *Closer Than Ever* are scheduled Feb. 20-22 at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 23 and Feb. 26 at 2 p.m., Feb. 28 and March 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m. at the Bean-Brown Theatre on the campus of Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa.

Tickets for the production may be purchased by calling the Theatre Tuscaloosa box office at 391-2277. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. Shelton State students may purchase tickets for \$6 with their student I.D. card.

A special "Pay What You Can" final dress rehearsal will be Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Although a \$5 contribution per ticket is suggested, that evening's audience may choose the amount of their ticket price with some limitations: one person cannot purchase more than four tickets and a \$15 minimum applies to any credit card purchases.

Production sponsorship for *Closer Than Ever* has been provided by Th Gloria Narramore Moody Foundation.

Alabama's Junior College of Fine Arts celebrates Excellence in the Arts

in March 2003

Closer Than Ever

March 2 2 p.m. Bean-Brown Theatre

Terrific Tuesday

March 4, 1 p.m. Auburn's Powell and Powell Recital Hall
March 11, 1 p.m. Applied Shelton Students Recital Hall
March 18, 1 p.m. Dr. Leslie Poss Recital Hall
March 25, 1 p.m. Dr. Mark Brown Recital Hall

Poetry and Music Production

March 6 7:30 p.m. Bean-Brown Theatre

Alabama Stage & Screen HoF GALA

March 15 6:30 p.m. Bean-Brown Theatre

Mark Childress, author of *Crazy in Alabama*

March 24 Student Session at 11; film at 1:30; Book Signing and Reception at 5:30; Evening Session at 7:30 Theatre Area

Shelton State Jazz Band

March 25 7:30 p.m. Bean-Brown Theatre

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SAMEDI Gras to be held at Diamond Theatre

By Alyx Wolff

Gold, purple and green streamers crawl down the walls and across the tables. Colored beads caress the necks of people ready to party, and the feel of New Orleans is in the air of Tuscaloosa. The Diamond Theater sparkles like the gem it's named after. No, it's not Mardi Gras, it's SAMEDI Gras.

SAMEDI Gras was started by a group of people who wanted to give back to the community while having some fun. This is the third year for SAMEDI Gras and so far it seems to be exactly what they wanted it to be.

According to one committee member, "We really enjoyed the Druid Ball each year, but we wanted to do something more community-oriented and less flamboyant." With a "Bruce Wayne" attitude, the committee likes to remain anonymous.

SAMEDI Gras is held on Fat Saturday and stands for Silent Auction Music Entertainment Dinner/Dance Involvement. Involvement is the most important part of SAMEDI Gras.

SAMEDI Gras is completely paid for by donations and all proceeds are given to charity.

The entertainment is local entertainers donating their time and talents. One of last year's revelers said, "With dancers, singers and musicians, the evening is filled with something for everyone. Beautiful voices and unusual dance shows add to the festive Mardi Gras feeling."

Each year the committee picks a nonprofit organization to receive the proceeds from the ball. If the organization is out of town then a second organization in Tuscaloosa is also picked.

This year's proceeds are going to the Community Soup Bowl in Tuscaloosa and to Summer Camp, a camp in Jasper for children with HIV and their families.

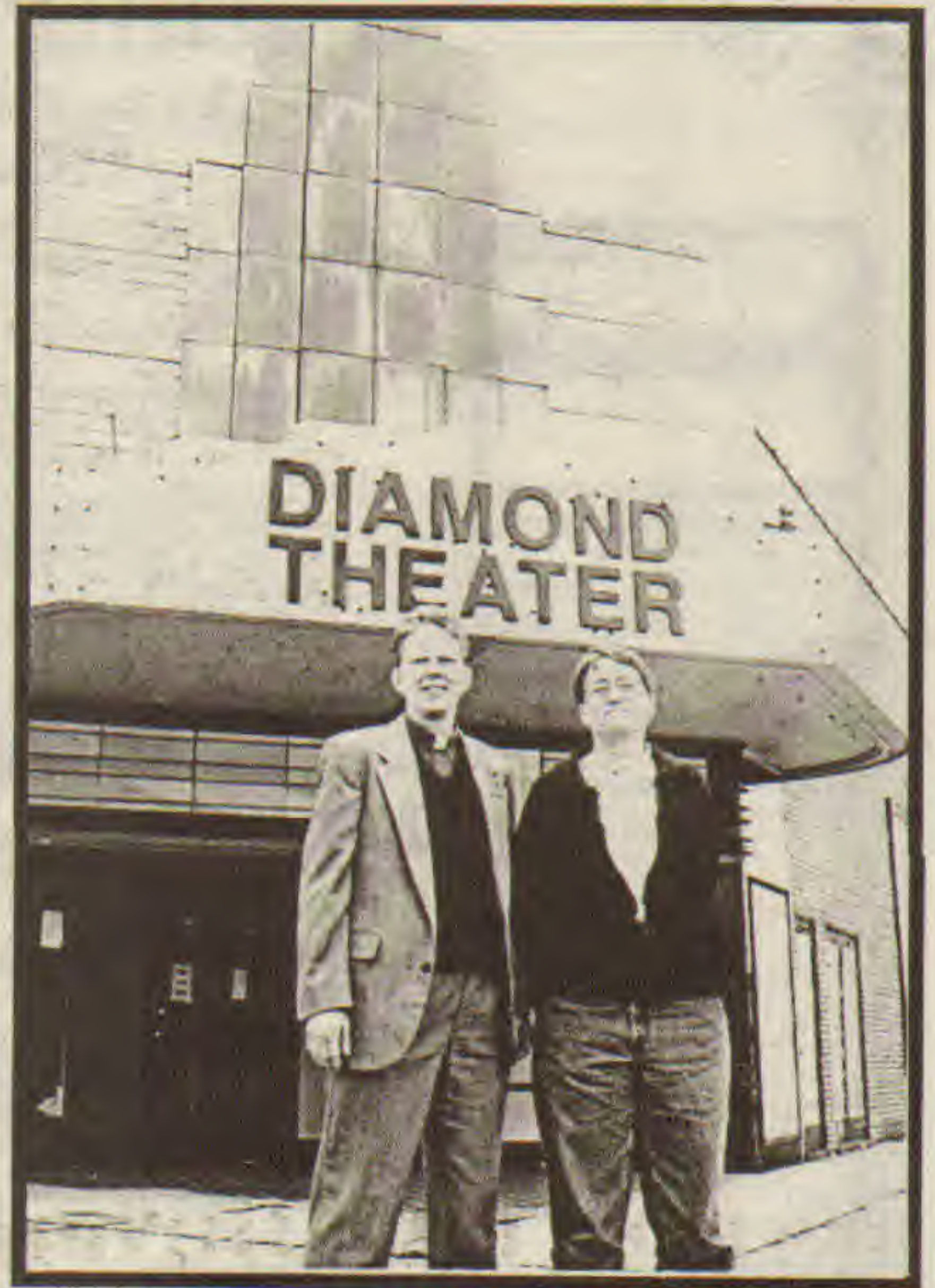
Reverend Susan Lowe, a lesbian pastor at a local non-denominational church that supports SAMEDI Gras said, "I am proud of how the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community has come together to organize this event. It is hard to get people to give to a

community that often excludes them. SAMEDI Gras has broken that barrier. SAMEDI Gras also has the GLBT community and the straight community working together."

To join the committee just sign up at SAMEDI Gras. Someone will call you when the meetings start next year. Any help that you can give is appreciated.

SAMEDI Gras will be held this year at the Diamond Theater located at 2217 Seventh Street in Tuscaloosa on March 1 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$25 and includes dinner. Olive Garden, 15th Street Diner and The Cypress Inn are donating dinner.

After 9 p.m., admission is \$10 and does not include dinner. Attire is dressy to formal. For ticket information send an e-mail to SAMEDIGras@aol.com.



The Rev. Helene H. Loper (L) and the Rev. Susan Lowe, co-pastors of God's House, a non-denomination church, are spearheading this year's SAMEDI-Gras at the Diamond Theatre.

Shelton to host Career Expo 2003

Shelton State Community College, in cooperation with the Tuscaloosa County and City Schools system, will host the 2003 West Alabama Career Expo on Feb. 20 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the Umphrey Center on Shelton State's Martin Campus.

Each of Shelton State's 20 Career Technology divisions will host an informational booth complete with representation from over 30 businesses and industries from the West Alabama community.

This combination will give students the opportunity to explore career options and investigate the training needed to obtain their career goals.

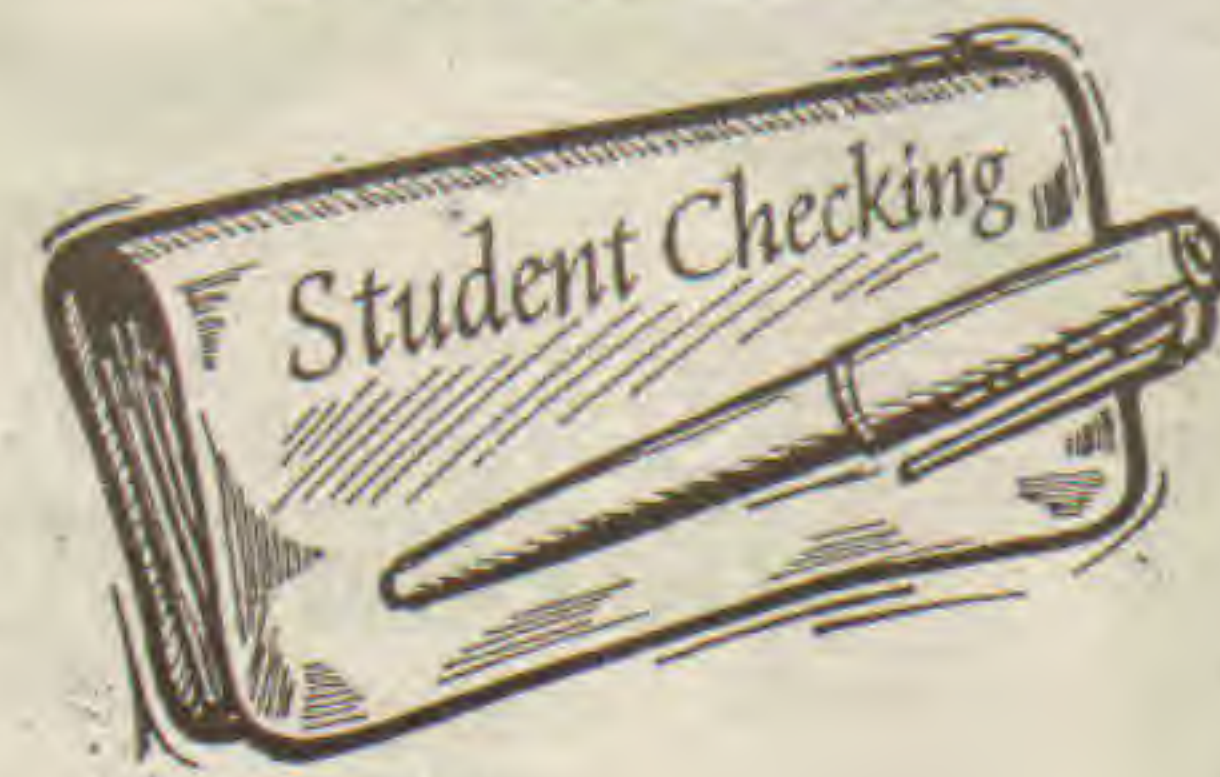
Four-year college representatives will also be available for Shelton State's transfer students as well as any interested prospective high school students.

For more information on Career Expo 2003, please contact Deborah Bonner, special events coordinator, at 391-2234.

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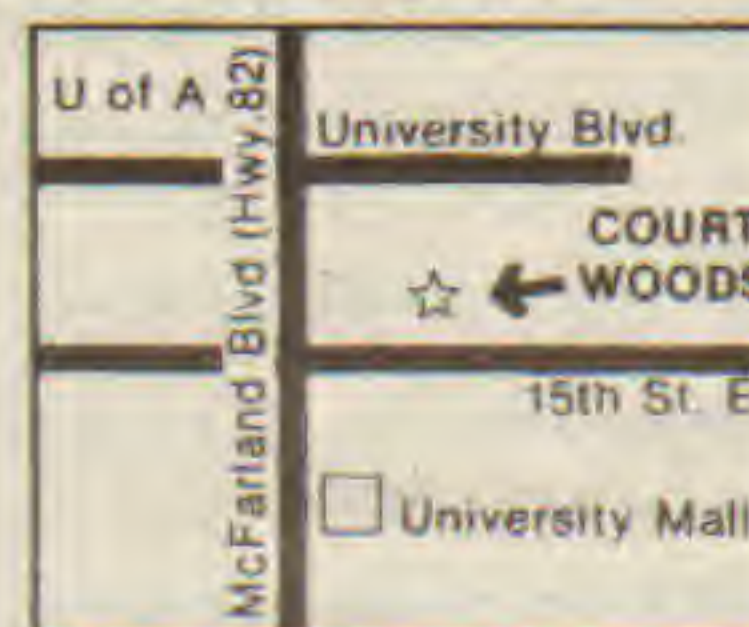
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